

To: Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board

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Report by:

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Scottish Government's Air Quality Strategy Cleaner Air for Scotland - the Road to a Healthier Future

1. Summary

- 1.1 In November 2015, the Scottish Government launched its air quality strategy *Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future* (CAFS). The purpose of CAFS is to provide a national cross-government strategy which sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to achieve further reductions in air pollution in order to fulfil Scotland's air quality responsibilities as soon as possible.
- 1.2 The Clean Air for Scotland strategy outlines a series of actions across a range of policy areas and introduces a number of important new initiatives. The majority of action measures will be implemented by the Scottish Government and partner organisations such as Transport Scotland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). However there are some actions that local authorities will be expected to deliver. These include the production of corporate travel plans which are consistent with air quality action plans and the encouragement of Freight Quality Partnerships.
- 1.3 Officers within Renfrewshire Council's Community Resources are currently developing a Renfrewshire wide air quality action plan which will take into account actions for all 3 of Renfrewshire's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). The Council's air quality action plan will consider the Clean Air for Scotland strategy and detail how it will assist in delivering its aims and objectives.

2. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board note the contents of the report on the *Scottish Government's Air Quality Strategy Cleaner Air for Scotland - the Road to a Healthier Future* which was approved by Renfrewshire Council's Environment Policy Board In November 2016.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 In November 2015, the Scottish Government launched its air quality strategy *Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future* (CAFS). The purpose of CAFS is to provide a national cross-government strategy which sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to achieve further reductions in air pollution in order to fulfil Scotland's legal responsibilities as soon as possible and to create and maintain a strong, healthy and fair society.
- 3.2 Scotland is not yet fully compliant with EU and Scottish legal requirements for air quality and as a result there are over 30 Air Quality Management Areas in place throughout Scotland. The reasons for non-compliance are varied but include an increase in the diesel fleet over the last decade; an increase in total number of road vehicles since 2004; a disparity between laboratory and real-world emissions from vehicle engines; transboundary emission sources and the topography and spatial planning of urban areas creating street canyons which trap air pollution close to the ground.
- 3.3 Air pollution disproportionately affects the most vulnerable members of society including the very young, the elderly, people with existing medical conditions and those living in deprived urban areas. Thus the key aims of reducing air pollution are to protect human health and eliminate health inequalities, in addition to improving the quality of places and habitats in the wider environment. Air Quality is directly related to the achievement of a number of key Scottish Government National Outcomes and policy priorities, notably those focussed on the environment, sustainable places, environmental impact and healthier lives.
- 3.4 The Clean Air for Scotland strategy outlines a series of actions to be achieved by 2020 across a range of six policy areas:
 - transport;
 - health;
 - policy and legislation;
 - placemaking;
 - communication; and
 - climate change.

- 3.5 A national governance group, supported by specialist subgroups, has been established to oversee implementation of the strategy. A key aspect of the Clean Air for Scotland strategy is the need for partnership working to support delivery of improvements in air quality. The majority of actions set out in the strategy cover areas that are most influenced by the Scottish Government working in partnership with others from across key sectors e.g. Transport Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Health Boards. However local authorities do have a key role to play and there are specific actions that they will be required to assist in delivering:

Transport

- All local authorities should ensure they have a corporate travel plan (perhaps within a carbon management plan) which is consistent with any local air quality action plan.
- Transport Scotland & local authorities will work with partners to deliver the Scottish Governments shared vision within the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland that by 2020, 10% of everyday journeys will be made by bike.
- Local authorities with an Air Quality Management Area will be encouraged to create a Freight Quality Partnership (or utilise an existing Regional Transport Partnership Freight Quality Partnership) and consider appropriate measures for local air quality improvement by 2017.

Climate Change

- Any Scottish local authority which has or is currently developing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan must ensure that air quality considerations are covered.

Whilst both Transport and Climate Change are overseen by the Scottish Government, both policy areas are delivered on a local level by Renfrewshire Council and will be instrumental in developing the Air Quality Action Plan for Renfrewshire. Progress in helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change is being reported to this Board by the Director of Community Resources and Director of Development & Housing Services in the Public Sector (Climate Change Duties Report 2015/16).

- 3.6 The Council's air quality action plan will consider the Clean Air for Scotland strategy and detail how it will assist in delivering the aims and objectives of the strategy. The specific local authority actions detailed within CAFS will be considered in more detail during the Council's action planning process with Community Resources liaising with other Services that lead on or can contribute to the delivery of the above actions as appropriate.
- 3.7 The Clean Air for Scotland strategy also outlines a range of important new initiatives to be implemented by 2020 including a National Modelling Framework intended to

provide a standard air quality assessment methodology for use across Scotland; a National Low Emissions Framework which will assist local authorities in determining effective measures for addressing air quality issues within their areas; and a national air quality public awareness campaign. The Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and SEPA will be responsible for implementing these initiatives which are currently still under development.

- 3.8 Ultimately the key overall to be achieved by 2020, through the implementation of the Clean Air for Scotland strategy, is full compliance with EU air quality legislation together with significant progress towards revocation of all Scottish

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Community Resources is currently developing a Renfrewshire wide air quality action plan which will take into account actions for all 3 of Renfrewshire's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's). The Council's air quality action plan will consider the Clean Air for Scotland strategy and detail how it will assist in delivering the aims and objectives of the strategy. The specific local authority actions detailed within the strategy, and set out in paragraph 3.5 above, will also be considered and included within the Council's action planning process.

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